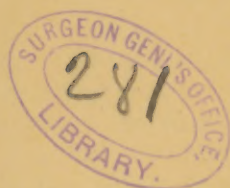


Wilder (B. G.)

[a living frog which was
decrebrized more than
seven months ago.]

1886.



Wilder (B. G.)

Dr. BURT G. WILDER, of Ithaca, exhibited a living frog which was decerebrized more than seven months ago.

The animal had enjoyed perfect health ever since the operation was performed, which was on the 9th of December, 1885. He had been fed on small fish or pieces of meat twice a week, but two persons were required to feed him, as he would not open his mouth voluntarily. Just here a curious phenomenon presented itself; that is, the frog did not know any better than to attempt to do two things at the same time, which were the reverse of each other in design. If a piece of a minnow's tail projects from his mouth, he would make an effort with one or both of his fore feet to remove the fish from his mouth, while at the same time he endeavored to swallow the other end. He would change his position slightly, would balance himself, wink with one eye, make the retrograde movement, and when irritated would wink with both eyes. Dr. Wilder queried whether the frog ever slept, whether he could be hypnotized, etc. It was a question also whether he was capable of any kind of education. He would lie upon his back, although not hypnotized. It would also be interesting to know whether or not a pair of such frogs could procreate, or whether this frog was capable of procreating.

Dr. SACHS, of New York: With regard to some of the questions suggested by Dr. Wilder, there is one essential difference between the manner in which he has decerebrized his frog and the manner in which the operation is done in Goltz's laboratory. There, nothing is removed; the parts are simply severed subcutaneously. Dr. Wilder's method is much more thorough, and I am surprised that the frog has lived so long. There is one point which corroborates what Goltz has found, and that is with reference to laying the frog upon the back; he noticed that, and also that if the legs be drawn out slowly they will be retained in any position, however uncomfortable that may be. This it is also

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possible to accomplish in functionally decerebrized animals of much higher order than the frog.

Dr. JASTROW, of the Johns Hopkins University: I can answer one question suggested by Prof. Wilder, and that is with reference to hypnotism, or rather catalepsy. I have a series of frogs which were operated upon in the following manner: First, normal; second, frogs in the condition of Dr. Wilder's; third, with the optic lobes also removed; and fourth, the ordinary reflex frog, with every thing removed above medulla. The very last thing that a frog gives up, is lying upon the back. None of these frogs, except the reflex frog, will, under ordinary conditions, submit to being laid upon the back.

Apparently this action, whether it is an hypnotic influence or not, will be left out of account. At all events this cataleptic condition remains as long as any thing of the brain is left at all. Furthermore, these frogs can be etherized.

Dr. WILDER: Did Dr. Jastrow succeed in cutting across the brain between the cerebellum and optic lobes?

Dr. JASTROW: Of course you cannot always be certain that this condition has been obtained.

Dr. WILDER: Has the condition of the brain, in such experiments, been observed to see whether there is any repair or reproduction? has there been any indication of reunion after transsection made subcutaneously?

Dr. JASTROW: I know of nothing with regard to the frog, but with regard to dogs it has been carefully studied, and no such union has been observed.

Dr. GRAY suggested the acetic-acid experiment, and Dr. WILDER said that it had been applied with the usual result.

Dr. JASTROW: I accidentally found a frog with one leg bitten off, and when the acid was applied to his back, he not only attempted to brush it off with the sound leg, but when that was held, he made the same attempt with the stump of the other leg.



